

Response
Serial No. 10/768,092
Attorney Docket No. 020212A

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 11 are pending in the present application, of which claims 4 and 7-11 have been withdrawn from consideration. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 5 and 6 have been amended and new claim 12 and 13 have been added. No new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that this Amendment is fully responsive to the Office Action dated October 7, 2005.

Examiner Interview:

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the courtesy extended by Examiner Pompey to the Applicants' representative, Thomas Brown, during the December 19, 2005 personal interview. The substance of such interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

As to the Merits:

As to the merits of this case, the Examiner sets forth the following rejections:

- 1) claims 1-3 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Yoshida (U.S. Patent No. 5,712,175); and
- 2) claim 2, 5 and 6 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshida in view of Sasaki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,180,528).

Each of these rejections is respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 1:

Independent claim 1, as amended, now calls for *(a) preparing a semiconductor substrate having current input/output regions; (b) forming an insulating layer on the semiconductor substrate, said insulating layer covering said current input/output regions.*

It is respectfully submitted that during the personal interview the Examiner acknowledged that the insulating layer 3 of Yoshida does not cover the current input/output regions, source and drain electrodes 2a and 2b.

As such, it is respectfully submitted that Yoshida fails to disclose or fairly suggest the features of claim 1, as amended, concerning *(a) preparing a semiconductor substrate having current input/output regions; (b) forming an insulating layer on the semiconductor substrate, said insulating layer covering said current input/output regions.*

Independent Claims 5 and 6:

Claim 5, as amended, now calls for *(c) applying an energy beam to an upper region of said resist laminate for defining an upper opening in each of said plurality of element regions, and applying an energy beam to a lower region of said resist laminate in at least part of said plurality of element regions at a different dose depending on the element region.*

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Similarly, independent claim 6, as amended, now calls for *(d) applying an energy beam to a lower region of the resist laminate in at least some of the element regions at a different dose corresponding to each element region.*

It is also respectfully submitted that during the personal interview the Examiner acknowledged that Yoshida fails to disclose or fairly suggest applying an energy beam at a different dose depending on the element region, for example, as shown in Figs. 9A-9E and 10A-10D of the present application.

As such, it is respectfully submitted that Yoshida fails to disclose or fairly suggest the features of claim 5, as amended, concerning *(c) applying an energy beam to an upper region of said resist laminate for defining an upper opening in each of said plurality of element regions, and applying an energy beam to a lower region of said resist laminate in at least part of said plurality of element regions at a different dose depending on the element region.*

Similarly, it is respectfully submitted that Yoshida fails to disclose or fairly suggest the features of claim 6, as amended, concerning *(d) applying an energy beam to a lower region of the resist laminate in at least some of the element regions at a different dose corresponding to each element region.*

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In addition, it is submitted that the secondary reference of Sasaki et al. fails to disclose or fairly suggest the above-noted drawbacks and deficiencies of Yoshida with regard to claims 5 and 6.

Claim 7:

With regard to claim 7, it is believed that claim 7 should also be presented as a claim readable on Species I, since it is drawn to the same embodiment as claims 5 and 6, as shown in Figs. 9A-9E and 10A-10D of the present application.

Moreover, it is submitted that the mushroom gate electrodes having different taper angles as recited in claims 7 and 13 is not taught by Yoshida.

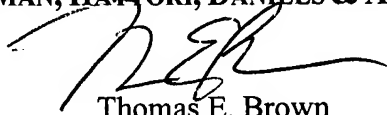
In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants submit that that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,
WESTERMAN, HATTORI, DANIELS & ADRIAN, LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TEB', is written over the printed name of Thomas E. Brown.

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